

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all claims pending in the subject application with the status of each claim being indicated in a parenthetical expression. The text of each claim under examination is presented, with currently amended claims including markings showing the changes made.

1. - 14. (Previously Canceled).

1           15. (Currently Amended) A method of making a medical ventilation tube  
2 comprising the steps of  
3           forming a hollow tubular shaft from a first material having a rigidity to resist  
4 bending and to maintain a passage through the shaft when the ventilation ~~tub~~ tube is  
5 placed in an anatomical structure; and  
6           ~~molding~~ forming a flange by molding the flange onto the hollow tubular shaft  
7 using a second material having a rigidity less than that of the first material to permit the  
8 flange to deform in response to contact with the anatomical structure.

1           16. (Currently Amended) A method of making a medical ventilation tube as  
2 recited in claim 15 wherein said ~~molding~~ step of forming a flange includes placing the  
3 hollow tubular shaft within a mold having a cavity configured to form the flange.

1           17. (Currently Amended) A method of making a medical ventilation tube as  
2 recited in claim 16 wherein said ~~molding~~ step of forming a flange further includes  
3 injecting the second material into the mold to fill the cavity and thermally bond with the  
4 hollow tubular shaft.

5           18. (Currently Amended) A method of making a medical ventilation tube as  
6 recited in claim 15 wherein said ~~molding~~ step of forming a flange further includes using  
7 a polymer having a durometer of about 50 as the second material.

1           19. (Original) A method of making a medical ventilation tube as recited in claim  
2 15 wherein said step of forming a hollow tubular shaft includes extruding a continuous  
3 length of hollow tubing and cutting the hollow tubing to a predetermined length.

1           20. (Original) A method of making a medical ventilation tube as recited in claim  
2 19 wherein said step of forming a hollow tubular shaft further includes using a polymer  
3 having a durometer of about 90 to about 95 as the first material.

1           21. (Canceled)

1           22. (New) A method of making a medical ventilation tube comprising the  
2 steps of  
3           molding an unfinished ventilation tube comprising a flanged end portion and a  
4 hollow tubular shaft of a first material having a rigidity sufficient for the hollow tubular  
5 shaft to resist bending and to maintain a passage through the shaft when the shaft is  
6 placed in an anatomical structure;  
7           cutting the flanged end portion away from the hollow tubular shaft; and  
8           molding another flanged end portion onto the hollow tubular shaft using a second  
9 material having a rigidity less than that of the first material to form a finished ventilation

10 tube in which the flanged end portion of the finished ventilation tube is permitted to  
11 deform in response to contact with the anatomical structure in which the hollow tubular  
12 shaft of the finished ventilation tube is placed.

1 23. (New) A method of making a medical ventilation tube comprising the  
2 steps of  
3 forming a hollow tubular shaft of the ventilation tube from a first material having a  
4 rigidity sufficient to resist bending and to maintain a passage through the shaft when  
5 the shaft is placed in an anatomical structure;  
6 placing the hollow tubular shaft in a cavity of a mold in which a portion of the  
7 cavity unoccupied by the shaft has a configuration corresponding to the configuration of  
8 a flanged end portion of the ventilation tube; and  
9 forming the flanged end portion of the ventilation tube of a second material,  
10 having a rigidity less than that of the first material to permit the flanged end portion to  
11 deform in response to contact with the anatomical structure in which the hollow tubular  
12 shaft is placed, by supplying the second material to the unoccupied portion of the cavity  
13 to form the flanged end portion molded onto the hollow tubular shaft in a finished  
14 ventilation tube.

1 24. (New) A method of making a medical ventilation tube as recited in claim  
2 23 wherein said step of forming a hollow tubular shaft includes the steps of supplying  
3 the first material to a cavity of a mold having a configuration corresponding to the  
4 configuration of the finished ventilation tube to obtain an unfinished ventilation tube

5 including the hollow tubular shaft and a discardable flanged end portion molded  
6 together of the first material, and cutting the discardable flanged end portion of the  
7 unfinished ventilation tube away from the hollow tubular shaft.